

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL,TW, CH

SUBJECT: US BICENTENNIAL

1. ON JUNE 19 EA/ROC DIRECTOR SULLIVAN INFORMED ROC EMBASSY MINISTER COUNSELOR CHEN THAT AFTER HIGH LEVEL CONSIDERATION, WE HAD DECIDED TO INFORM ALL US GOVERNMENT AND QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZERS OF BICENTENNIAL EVENTS NOT RPT NOT TO INVITE THE GOVERNMENTS OF EITHER ROC OR PRC TO PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS WHICH THESE ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE SPONSORING.

2. SULLIVAN BEGAN BY REFERRING TO ROC EMBASSY INQUIRY SEVERAL WEEKS AGO CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL. IN CONSIDERING THIS MATTER, SULLIVAN CONTINUED, OUR PRIMARY CONCERN HAS BEEN TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL CONFRONTATION AND EMBARRASSMENT WHICH WOULD MAR THIS IMPORTANT US NATIONAL CELEBRATION. IN GOING OVER HISTORY OF VISITS BY ROC AND PRC GROUPS TO US OVER PAST TWO YEARS, SULLIVAN NOTED THAT EACH ONE

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HAD BEEN MARKED BY INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT AND ON

OCCASION BY VIOLENCE. WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH SUCH INCIDENTS IN CONTEXT OF OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. THE ONLY SURE WAY TO AVOID SUCH INCIDENTS, SULLIVAN CONTINUED, APPEARS TO BE NOT TO HAVE PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL BY EITHER THE ROC OR THE PRC.

3. RAISING HIS HAND SEVERAL INCHES ABOVE HIS HEAD, CHEN ASKED IF THIS WAS A HIGH LEVEL DECISION. SULLIVAN CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS, RAISING HIS HAND CONSIDERABLY HIGHER. CHEN THEN ASKED IF USG WOULD PERMIT PRIVATE ROC GROUPS TO APPEAR IN US DURING BICENTENNIAL. SULLIVAN REPLIED THAT WE WERE ONLY ASKING ROC NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN OFFICIALLY-SPONSORED BICENTENNIAL EVENTS. WE WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT IN CONSIDERING PARTICIPATION IN PRIVATELY SPONSORED EVENTS, ROC WOULD KEEP IN MIND OUR DESIRE TO AVOID INJECTING CHINA ISSUE INTO THIS IMPORTANT NATIONAL CELEBRATION. SULLIVAN ALSO ASSURED CHEN THAT ROC EMBASSY WOULD BE INCLUDED IN OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS TO WHICH DIPLOMATIC CORPS INVITED.

4. WHEN CHEN ASKED IF WE WERE WITHDRAWING GENERAL INVITATION US BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION SENT TO GROC (AND TO ALL GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH US HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS) SULLIVAN REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO PLANS FORMALLY TO WITHDRAW THE INVITATION BUT WERE EXPLAINING TO THE GROC THAT WE WOULD NOT BE FOLLOWING UP WITH INVITATIONS TO THE GROC TO SEND EXHIBITS, PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS, ETC. FOR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

5. BOTH DURING CONVERSATION AND BY TELEPHONE LATER, CHEN SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF GROUND RULES ON PRIVATE GROUPS, SPECIFICALLY ASKING IF ROC CULTURAL TROUPES COULD PERFORM IN SAME CITY AND AT SAME TIME AS OFFICIALLY SPONSORED EVENTS. SULLIVAN REITERATED POINT THAT WE HOPE ROC WILL KEEP IN MIND OUR DESIRE TO AVOID INJECTING CHINA ISSUE INTO NATIONAL CELEBRATION. AN ATTEMPT TO PLAN ROC CULTURAL PROGRAM TO COINCIDE WITH OFFICIAL US CELEBRATIONS WOULD REPRESENT, IN OUR VIEW, AN UNACCEPTABLE INTRODUCTION OF CHINA ISSUE.

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